

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. Authorization for the examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Bryan Giles, Registration No. 60,078 on October 2, 2008.
3. Amend the claims as follow:
 - 1-20. (Canceled)
 21. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium ~~bearing~~ having stored thereon computer-executable instructions for providing an asynchronous database Application Programming Interface ("API") that allows a client application to open a database connection asynchronously, said API comprising:
 - ~~instructions for providing an application programming interface ("API") for an application that requests a database operation, said API comprising:~~
 - instructions for an initialization method that is configured to be invoked by said application a client thread to request said a database operation, wherein upon invocation of said initialization method, said initialization method:
 - ~~initiates a return communication to said application with said client thread~~
 - without waiting for any external event, said return communication allowing the application said client thread to continue executing without waiting for results a response from a database server associated with said database operation;
 - validates input parameters for said database operation;

sets up said database operation by generating database instructions based on data passed to said initialization method; and

sends a request for said database operation to said database server;

instructions for signaling ~~an application~~ said client thread when ~~[[a]]~~ said database operation is complete; and

instructions for a finalization method that ~~can be invoked by said application~~ is configured to be invoked by said client thread, in response to said signaling, to obtain any results of said database operation, wherein upon invocation of said finalization method, said finalization method:

prepares database results for said ~~application~~ client thread; and

returns said database results to said ~~application~~ client thread.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently amended) The ~~[[A]]~~ computer readable medium ~~according to~~ of claim 21, wherein said return communication comprises an event object that can be signaled when said database operation completes.

24. (Currently amended) The ~~[[A]]~~ computer readable medium ~~according to~~ of claim 21, wherein said return communication comprises an object with a Boolean flag that can be signaled when said database operation completes.

25. (Currently amended) The ~~[[A]]~~ computer readable medium ~~according to~~ of claim 21, wherein said initialization method maintains a callback function for notifying ~~[[a]]~~ said client thread when said database operation completes.

26-28. (Canceled)

29. (Currently amended) The ~~[[A]]~~ computer readable medium ~~according to~~ of claim 21, wherein said API further comprises instructions for an execute Structured Query

Language (“SQL”) statement method that allows ~~a client application~~ said client thread to execute a SQL statement asynchronously.

30. (Currently amended) A computer ~~equipped with software implementing~~ readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions for providing an asynchronous database Application Programming Interface (“API”) allowing a client application to open a database connection asynchronously, said API comprising:

instructions for an initialization method, wherein said initialization method is ~~invokable~~ configured to be invoked by a client thread to request a database operation, wherein upon invocation of said initialization method, said initialization method:

initiates a return communication with the client thread without waiting for any external event, said return communication allowing said client thread to continue executing without waiting for a response from a database server associated with said database operation;

validates input parameters for ~~[[a]]~~ said database operation;

sets up ~~[[a]]~~ said database operation by generating database instructions based on data passed to the initialization method, said database operation comprising at least one instruction to execute a Structured Query Language (“SQL”) statement; and

sends a request for said database operation to a database server;

instructions for signaling said client thread when said database operation is complete;

instructions for a finalization method that ~~can be~~ is configured to be invoked by said client thread, in response to said signaling, to obtain any results of said database operation, wherein upon invocation of said finalization method, said finalization method:

prepares database results for said client thread; and

returns said database results to said client thread~~[[;]]~~ ~~and~~

~~wherein said instruction for an initialization method and said instructions for a finalization method are stored on a computer readable medium accessible by said computer.~~

31. (Currently amended) The computer readable medium of claim 30, wherein said return communication comprises an event object that can be signaled when said database operation completes.

32. (Currently amended) The computer readable medium of claim 30, wherein said return communication comprises an object with a Boolean flag that can be signaled when a database operation completes.

33. (Currently amended) The computer readable medium of claim 30, further comprising instructions for a callback function for notifying said client thread when said database operation completes.

34. (Currently amended) A ~~computer-enabled~~ computer-implemented method for allowing a client application to asynchronously access database services, said method comprising:

receiving, by an Application Programming Interface (API) software executing on a computer, a client thread invocation of an initialization method, wherein said client thread invocation comprises input parameters for a database operation;

initiating, by said initialization method without waiting for any external event, a return communication to said client thread, said return communication allowing said client thread to continue executing without waiting for a response from a database server associated with said database operation;

validating, by said initialization method, said input parameters;

setting up said database operation by generating database instructions based on said input parameters, said database operation comprising at least one instruction to execute a Structured Query Language (“SQL”) statement;

sending a request for said database operation to [[a]] said database server;

signaling said client thread when said database operation is complete;

receiving, by said API, an invocation of a finalization method from said client thread in response to said signaling;

preparing, by said finalization method, database results for said client thread; and
returning, by said finalization method, said database results to said client thread.

35. (Currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 34, wherein said return communication comprises an event object that can be signaled when said database operation completes.

36. (Currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 34, wherein said return communication comprises an object with a Boolean flag that can be signaled when a database operation completes.

37. (Currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 34, further comprising notifying said client thread when said database operation completes by sending a callback function to said client thread.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Qing-Yuan Wu whose telephone number is (571)272-3776. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30am-6:00pm Monday-Thursday and alternate Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Meng Ai An can be reached on (571) 272-3756. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR

Art Unit: 2194

system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Meng-Ai An/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2195

/Qing-Yuan Wu/
Examiner, Art Unit 2194